

**Letter of Recommendation for PhD scholarship**

**Applicant: Mr. Rahul Subbaraman**

**Student of BS-MS Program of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata in Earth Sciences.**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

It's my great pleasure to introduce Mr. Rahul Subbaraman as a final year student of the BS-MS program at IISER Kolkata. I know Rahul since 2018. I have been the instructor in two of his curriculum courses in 2020, petrology theory and practical, as well as guided him to a field course in 2019. During the course he took keen interest in petrology, as in many other subjects. In the last semester, Rahul was selected as the Teaching Assistant in the petrology practical course that I teach. His job was to conduct the assignments, which he did wonderfully.

At the outset I must mention that the Department of Earth Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata is a premium institute in India and the students showing only an extraordinary performance in the school leaving examination can join this institute. Rahul is also a recipient of the prestigious INSPIRE fellowship (funded by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India), for the entire five years of his BS-MS program, which is only given to the top 5% graduate students of the country.

Rahul has an excellent academic record in school. In the BS-MS dual degree program, Rahul's academic performance so far has been excellent (CGPA 9.21) and he ranks among the top three in his batch of 45 students. As Rahul is doing his MS research in geochemistry with another faculty member, he has not been associated with me for any research or project work. Therefore, I cannot comment much on the same. However, I have interacted with him very closely during the curriculum courses, especially during the petrology theory and lab course, during the field training and during the lab course where he was the TA. He is very hard working and methodical, and his vibrant academic interactions in classroom were highly enjoyable. His rational thinking and power of scientific reasoning is commendable. Rahul is very serious and meticulous about his research in the field of petrology and geochemistry, which is reflected from the several interactions we had regarding his research and presentations on his MS-thesis. I have also seen him explaining and helping fellow classmates during the field and lab course. He is very good speaker and has good writing skills. He has also participated in several very good summer research projects which provided him the much needed exposure in a research environment outside our institute. Rahul is the recipient of the Indian Science Academies' Summer Research Fellowship 2021, which is a very prestigious fellowship in India. Moreover, he was selected for an international summer research project in Australia in 2020, which unfortunately got cancelled due to the lockdown.

Rahul is a well-behaved, polite and honest person. He has shown the quality of working in a group in the field course, led a small group of students to complete a designated assignment and can easily adjust with other co-workers. Apart from academic, Rahul takes keen interest in other extra-curricular activities and have organized several student-level workshops and webinars. Given a chance, I believe he will do very well in all academic endeavors.

With best regards,



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